GUNSMOKE WESTERN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

10¢ 56 JAN.

IF YUH DRAW AGAINST A SHERIFF, YOU'RE FINISHED, KID! BUT IF YUH DON'T DRAW, YOU'RE DOOMED!
DON'T LEAVE ME MUCH CHOICE, DO YUH, HOMBRE?
WE GOT EARP NOW, BOYS! OVER THE CLIFF WITH 'IM!

KID COLT in "THE OUTLAW STRIKES BACK!"

WYATT EARP IN "MONTANA MIKE, THE MAN WHO CAPTURED THE MARSHAL!"

and OTHER GREAT WESTERN THRILLS!

Let these Champions of Sports Help You Build the Kind of Body You've Always Wanted!

"Train" with JOE LOUIS MICKEY MANTLE AND OTHER GREAT STARS

MICKEY MANTLE was so shy, he had trouble *just saying hello!* He shows you how sports made him "come out of his shell", built his self-confidence and helped him to become a champion! Now Mickey wants to help YOU!

YOGI BERRA used to be called "Fatso"—until he got into all kinds of sports and learned how to play to *win!* That's how he got the reputation as one of the toughest competitors in major league baseball!

"You're too small and skinny to play championship basketball", they told BOB COUSY. But Bob showed them it's your SPEED and TRAINING that count. Now this great basketball star will share his training secrets with *you!*

JOE LOUIS was a poor boy—and they tried to push him around. But Joe developed his shoulders, his footwork and timing 'til *nobody alive* could stay in the ring with him. Now Joe will teach YOU how to defend yourself!

They trained themselves to be Champions... NOW, they want to do the same for you!

Get Started NOW—for just 10¢

YOU may be surprised to know this, but none of these great champs was *born* a hero. They all TRAINED themselves to be great—and now they've joined together to help others do the same!

Yes, these champions want to help *you* to be a real athlete and *look* the part! They'll gladly share all their secrets with boys who seriously want to improve. Right at home they'll help you develop a body that ripples with all the power you'll ever need—iron muscles, strong shoulders, tireless legs and wind. They'll build up your speed and timing. Buck up your confidence, personality and popularity. What's more, you don't need any special weights, bar bells or other expensive equipment to follow their exciting program.

Start Now!

You can start by sending 10¢ for their Championship Training Book *right now!* In it, Mickey Mantle shows you how to step up your batting average... Doak Walker gives you some great passing tips... Bob Cousy tells you how to handle a basketball like a pro... Joe Louis shows you how to fight a guy who's bigger than you. You get all this *and much much more* for only 10¢. And with this little book we'll send you all the details of a Program these great athletes have developed to train you to become a CHAMP.

Well, how about it? Mickey, Joe and all the rest of the champions are waiting to help you—and they'll never let you down. One thing the champions will tell you, though. "Never put off something important!" So fill in the coupon at the right and mail it with your dime, *today!*

Sports Program Praised Across the Nation...

"My efforts with your Course were rewarded when out of 1700 boys at my school, I scored highest in our annual physical education tests."
—Errol Glustoff, Chicago 45, Ill.

"The Course has helped me coach my boys the right way. It stresses the right thinking."
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"The Champions not only helped my two sons...they also put me in shape."
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The Champions' Program Is...

Used by 406 Athletic Coaches—all routines are medically approved. Designed for you to train in your own home—no equipment needed.

ENCLOSE 10¢

THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL
Dept. AM-10, 33 West 46th Street, New York 36, N.Y.

Gentlemen: I enclose 10¢. Please rush me the Championship Training Book by Mickey Mantle, Joe Louis, Doak Walker, Bob Cousy and other great sports stars. Also send FREE literature that tells how the National Sports Council can help me become a top athlete and look the part.

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KID COLT OUTLAW

THE LEGEND OF KID COLT... YEARS AGO, KID COLT KILLED AN OUTLAW IN SELF-DEFENSE! BUT, BEING YOUNG AND FOOLISH, HE FLED, INSTEAD OF STAYING TO STAND TRIAL! SINCE THEN, HE HAS SPENT HIS LIFE TRYING TO ATONE FOR HIS MISTAKE!

I'VE WAITED A **LONG TIME** FOR THIS MINUTE, COOPER! NOW I'M CALLIN' ON YUH TO THROW DOWN YOUR GUN--OR **DRAW!** AND I'M HOPIN' REAL HARD THAT YORE GONNA **DRAW!**

I WAS **RIGHT,** COLT! YORE NOTHIN' BUT A LOW-DOWN GUN-SLINGIN' OWLHOOT, NO MATTER **HOW** YUH TRY TO PROVE YORE NOT! WELL, **THIS** TIME YUH COME TO THE END OF YORE ROPE!

BAR

WHAT'S THIS?? CAN WE BELIEVE OUR EYES?? CAN THIS BE KID COLT, THE WEST'S MOST FAMOUS FIGHTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE, ABOUT TO DRAW AGAINST A LAW-MAN?? THERE MUST BE MORE TO THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE! LET'S READ ON AND SEE!

"THE OUTLAW STRIKES BACK!"

7-537 Stan Lee & JACK KELLER

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT-- KID COLT NEVER DREW AGIN' A LAWMAN BEFORE!

IF HE GUNS DOWN THE MARSHAL, IT'LL BE PLAIN **MURDER!**

AIN'T **LIKELY** HE'LL GUN 'IM DOWN! I RECKON THE MARSHAL IS THE FASTEST RANNY WITH A GUN I EVER DID SEE!

TAKE COVER! THEY'RE GOIN' FOR THEIR GUNS!

ALL RIGHT, COLT! YUH **ASKED** FOR IT! ***SLAP LEATHER!***

TWO HANDS DARTED TO THEIR HOLSTERS IN A BLAZE OF SPEED--BUT **ONE** WAS FASTER--

BLAM

AS THE SMOKE CLEARS, LET US PAUSE AT THIS POINT AND GO BACK A SPELL-- BACK TO THE STRANGE AND DRAMATIC EVENTS WHICH LED UP TO THIS AMAZING GUN-FIGHT! IT ALL BEGAN WHEN KID COLT WAS RIDING ALONE ALONG A WINDING, SILENT TRAIL...

AIN'T LIKELY THERE'S ANOTHER HUMAN FOR MILES AROUND-- AND YET I GOT A FEELIN' THERE'S SOMEONE NEARBY!

THUD!

I WUZ **RIGHT!** **SOMETHING'S** BEHIND THAT BUSH!

A WOUNDED MAN! WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT ARE YUH DOIN' OUT HERE, HOMBRE?

I--I WUZ (GASP) BUSHWHACKED--

THAT'S A MIGHTY BAD WOUND YUH GOT IN THAT SHOULDER, AMIGO! RECKON WE GOTTA GIT YUH TO A DOCTOR **FAST**!

BUT HE TOOK MUH HOSS--AND WE'RE MILES FROM ANYWHERE--I-I COULDN'T **MAKE** IT!

WE'LL **MAKE** IT, MISTER! I **PROMISE** YUH!

THE KID WAS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD! A DAY AND A HALF LATER...

LUCKY THING YUH GOT HIM HERE WHEN YUH **DID**, COWBOY! ANOTHER FEW HOURS WOULDA BEEN TOO LATE!

ALL HE NEEDS IS PLENTY OF REST, AND I RECKON HE'LL BE AS GOOD AS NEW!

WAIT A MINUTE, STRANGER! WHERE ARE **YOU** GOIN'?

I GOT ME A BUSHWHACKER TO FIND, DOC!

IT WASN'T AN EASY TASK! THE KID WENT FROM TOWN TO TOWN--SEARCHING--PROBING...

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THAT STRANGER!

NO--HE LOOKS LIKE A HOMBRE WHO'S SPOILIN' FOR A SHOOTOUT!

I TELL YUH, MISTER, THERE'S NO GENT ANSWERIN' TO THAT DESCRIPTION IN **THIS** TOWN!

MUCH OBLIGED, AMIGO! RECKON I'LL BE MOVIN' ON!

DAY AFTER DAY HE RODE! NOT CARING THAT THERE WAS A PRICE ON HIS HEAD! NOT CARING THAT HE WAS RISKING HIS **OWN** LIFE, TO AVENGE A MAN HE HAD NEVER KNOWN BEFORE! THE KID HAD A MISSION-- HE WOULD SEE IT THRU NO MATTER WHAT THE COST!

HERE IT IS...LOS RIOS! I GOT A FEELIN' I'VE COME TO THE END OF THE TRAIL!

HE RODE INTO TOWN BRAZENLY--UNTIL A SHOUT FROM BEHIND MADE HIM AS TENSE AS A COILED SPRING!

KID! KID COLT! **DON'T MOVE!**

WELL WELL! I NEVER THOUGHT THE FAMOUS KID COLT WOULD BE SO EASY TO CAPTURE! YUH JUST AMBLED INTO TOWN AS EASY AS PIE, HUH?

I'M NOT WANTED IN THIS COUNTY, AND YOU **KNOW** IT, DEPUTY!

GIT OFFA THAT HOSS! I RECKON ALL I GOT TO DO IS RIDE YUH INTO THE **NEXT** COUNTY WHERE YUH **ARE** WANTED, AND I'LL COLLECT MUHSELF A TIDY REWARD!

THAT AIN'T LEGAL, DEPUTY!

AS LONG AS **I** HOLD THIS GUN AND WEAR THIS BADGE, ANYTHING I **DO** IS LEGAL, HOMBRE!

STRIKING LIKE A FRENZIED PANTHER, THE KID EXPLODED INTO A THUNDERBOLT OF RAGE-FILLED ACTION!

YOU GOT A **LESSON** TO LEARN, MISTER! AND THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO **LEARN** IT!

HUH?

NO MAN IS BIGGER THAN THE LAW, NOT EVEN A BADGE-TOTIN' DEPUTY!

COLT, I DON'T **LIKE** FER MY DEPUTY TO BE PUSHED AROUND THATAWAY!

THE ***MARSHAL!***

I HIRED THAT HOMBRE PERSONAL! NO **ONE** DOES THAT TO ANY MAN **BILL COOPER** GOT WORKIN' FOR HIM!

BAR

I ALWAYS **WANTED** TO MEET UP WITH YUH, COLT! I ALWAYS RECKONED YUH WERE JUST AN ORNERY BADMAN, WHO'D PICK A FIGHT AS SOON AS LOOK AT A MAN! BUT THIS TIME YORE FACIN' A **FASTER** GUN!

SO **YORE** MARSHAL BILL COOPER!

A FEW MORE HEATED WORDS... AND THEN, BACK TO THE PRESENT ...AND THE FATAL DRAW!

BLAM!

AND WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARED, ONE MAN WAS LEFT STANDING...

RECKON THIS EVENS YORE ACCOUNT, HOMBRE!

HE WOUNDED THE MARSHAL!

LET'S RUSH 'IM!

EVEN KID COLT CAN'T GIT AWAY WITH **THAT!**

BAR

HOLD IT, MEN! NO ONE DRAWS AGAINST KID COLT WITHOUT DRAWIN' AGAINST **ME,** TOO!

AS YOU WERE, HOMBRES! WE GOT SOME CLEANIN' UP TO DO!

I'M THE **REAL** MARSHAL BILL COOPER! HERE ARE MY CREDENTIALS! AS I WAS RIDIN' TO LOS RIOS, THIS JASPER BUSHWHACKED ME AND STOLE MUH BADGE! HE'S AN OWLHOOT, NAME OF BRET CORBETT, WITH A PRICE ON HIS HEAD!

THAT'S RIGHT! WE BEEN TRAILIN' HIM FOR MONTHS... HE'S WANTED BY THE ARMY FOR DESERTION!

RECKON WE GOT SOME APOLOGIZIN' TO DO TO KID COLT! WH-WHERE **IS** HE?

6

BUT, HIS JOB DONE, THE KID WANTED NO THANKS! THERE WERE **OTHER** JOBS TO DO--OTHER MEN TO TRACK DOWN--OTHER ADVENTURES WAITING FOR HIM ALONG LIFE'S TRAIL! AND SO HE RODE SILENTLY OFF--INTO THE LEGENDS OF THE WEST!

THE END

DRAW ME

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Try for this free art course! Winner also gets professional drawing supplies and valuable art textbooks. Entries for January 1960 contest must be received by January 31. None returned. Amateurs only. Our students not eligible. Winner notified. Mail your drawing of the space pilot today.

Use 1 coupon—then pass this page on to a friend.

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SETTLERS TRAIL

ONCE, the valley had clattered to the sound of giant piston hammers breaking up the gold ore into tiny fragments. Once, tall frame wooden buildings had stood along the whole length of the main street, not long after Mark Tallant had discovered gold in the little creek that ran right through what eventually became the town.

Tallant had been tough and tight-fisted. The sale of gold claims all along the length of his original claim on the creek brought him many thousands of dollars. Then came the inevitable collapse. One by one the claims petered out, and were abandoned. When the bust came, Tallant, too, was wiped out.

Gold Town lingered for a month or so, its population leaving in droves. Finally, the last issue of the Gold Town Miner, the weekly newspaper operated by editor Grant Woodrum appeared. Woodrum, who had originally staked Tallant, had one final interview with the claim owner. What happened, then, did not come to light for forty years.

For all that time, Gold Town was a ghost town.

Then, an earthquare along the distant Chisolm Fault, a rock crevice underlying the adjoining county, made an unexpected slip. Valley Lake, twenty miles above Gold Town flowed through newly opened rifts down the dry valley land, finding new paths for innumerable streams. Within five years of the quake, the area around Gold Town was grassgrown almost perfect cattle country.

Once more, it lay open for settlement. Settlers appeared, one day, at the lower end of the valley, and from then on the rush was on for land. Gold Town itself had virtually disappeared. Built largely of thin clapboard, it had vanished in several successive holocausts started by lightning. Now it was rebuilt.

All went well until, one day, a man walked into the newly-erected town hall of New Gold Town. He was quite ordinary in appearance, but there was purpose in the sharp glint of his eye. Also, there was, in his fist, legal evidence that his grandfather, Mark Tallant had once owned the greater part of the land now occupied by small cattle ranches.

Tallant demanded immediate payment for the land, and payment at prices he chose to set. An immediate uproar spread through the valley. Disaster seemed looming until a letter was discovered in the possession of another man in a far distant town. This letter had belonged to Grant Woodrum, once publisher and owner of the Gold Town Miner. The man, it appeared, had been Woodrum's only friend.

The letter was from Mark Tallant and said, simply, that in consideration of Woodrum's having staked him to the discovery of gold, and in the lack of cash, due to the petering out of the gold fields, Tallant was turning over possession of the whole of his claimed land to the editor, Woodrum, of course, had been unable to realize upon the claim, for the town was then in process of being abandoned. At a town meeting called a month after Biff Tallant, Mark Tallant's grandson, had arrived, the new mayor, rancher Jim Bradley opened the discussion.

It was Bradley who had, by chance, discovered the existence of the letter from Tallant to Woodrum. His first words kindled the light of hope in the eyes of fifty ranchers who sat, with their wives and children, in the big, bare room.

"The letter exists," Bradley said. "It's real enough, and I've no doubt, that when the signature on it is compared to the signature on the claim papers of Mark Tallant, that they'll be the same."

There was a stir, as heads turned toward Biff Tallant, who sat in the back of the room. Triumph shone in many eyes, but Tallant simply folded his arms quietly, and kept still, showing no signs of disappointment. The next words of mayor Jim Bradley were a bombshell.

"The trouble is," Bradley said, "that there is no legal evidence of Woodrum's ownership of the Gold Town Miner, or any legal evidence for that matter, that shows Woodrum once resided here. Woodrum had no descendants and no relatives we can discover. In the absence of that evidence, Biff Tallant's claim stands."

"What would constitute

CONTINUED

WYATT EARP FRONTIER MARSHAL

IT WAS A ROUTINE FIGHT, ON A ROUTINE NIGHT IN DODGE! A VISITING COWPOKE GOT A MITE TOO RAMBUMPTIOUS, AND I SETTLED HIM AS EASY AS I COULD!

NO ONE TELLS ME WHAT TO— UGH!

GRIZZLY'LL LET YOU SLEEP IT OFF IN THE POKEY, MISTER, AND YOU'LL FEEL MUCH MORE PEACEABLE COME MORNIN'!

WISHT YUH HAD SAVED THIS ONE FOR ME, MARSHAL. I'M BEGINNIN' TO GET STALE!

MONTANA MIKE, THE MAN WHO CAPTURED THE MARSHAL!

Dan Lee & Dick Ayers

SUDDENLY, AS GRIZZLY TOOK THE SUBDUED RANNY TOWARD THE JAIL —

OHH...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MARSHAL?

I DON'T KNOW! MY ARM--- IT-- IT HURTS SOMETHIN' FIERCE!

BETTER CALL DOC TO HAVE A LOOK-SEE AT IT!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

YOU GOT A BAD ARM THERE, MARSHAL! MUSTA HURT A MUSCLE WHEN YOU SWUNG AT THAT JASPER BEFORE! YUH'LL HAVETA KEEP IT IN A SLING FOR A FEW DAYS!

BUT, DOC, I **NEED** MY ARM! I'M **MARSHAL** HERE!

AND **I'M** DOCTOR HERE — AND **I** SAY, LEAVE THIS SLING ON!

WELL, IF I **HAVE** TO —

WELL WELL, IF'N **THIS** AIN'T AN INTERESTIN' DEVELOPMENT!

I MIGHT HAVE BEEN A HEAP MORE WORRIED ABOUT MY ARM THAN I WAS, IF I HAD KNOWN THAT **MONTANA MIKE** HAD BEEN IN BACK OF THE SALOON, WATCHING DOC PUT MY ARM IN A SLING! BUT I **DIDN'T** KNOW AT THE TIME — NOR DID I SEE MONTANA SLIP OUT OF THE SALOON, WITH A SCHEMING LEER ON HIS FACE...

WHEN THE BOYS HEAR ABOUT THIS, THERE'S GOTTA BE BIG DOIN'S IN DODGE! YES SIR — BIG DOIN'S!

MONTANA MIKE WAS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS GUNMEN IN THE TERRITORY! IF I HAD KNOWN HE WAS IN TOWN, I WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MY EYES OFF HIM! BUT HE MANAGED TO GET BACK TO HIS THREE CRONIES WHO WERE WAITING AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN— WITHOUT ME SUSPECTING HE WAS IN DODGE!

WE'RE IN LUCK, BOYS. EARP CAN'T USE HIS RIGHT ARM FOR A FEW DAYS!

THAT MEANS DODGE IS OURS FOR THE TAKIN'!

NOT SO FAST! WHAT ABOUT GRIZZLY GRANT???

I'LL TAKE CARE OF EARP— YOU THREE OUGHTTA BE ABLE TO HANDLE GRIZZLY!

LET'S RIDE!

THE FIRST INDICATION I HAD OF TROUBLE WAS THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE IN MAIN STREET A SOUND I HAD ALWAYS DONE MY BEST TO PREVENT!

GUNFIRE! IN THE STREET!

EASY, MARSHAL! I'LL GO!

BOOM! CRACK!

NO, AMIGO, I'M MARSHAL HERE — EVEN WITH ONE BAD ARM, IT'S STILL MY JOB!

THE SIGHT THAT GREETED ME AS I OPENED THE DOOR WAS A MENACING ONE! I KNEW I WAS IN ONE OF THE TIGHTEST SPOTS OF MY LIFE!

COME ON OUT, MARSHAL! JOIN IN THE FUN!

BLAM!

POW!

HOW ABOUT A SHOOTIN' CONTEST, MARSHAL? I'LL GO FIRST!

NOT BAD FOR A QUICK SHOT, 'EH, LAWMAN? NOW HOW'S ABOUT YOU TRYIN' IT? OR DOES YOUR ITTY BITTY ARM HURT TOO MUCH?

MONTANA, YOU KNOW GUNS AREN'T ALLOWED IN DODGE!

HOTEL

"SO I'M ORDERING YUH TO DROP YOUR IRON— PRONTO!

YUH TALK PURTY BIG FOR A MAN WITH HIS RIGHT ARM IN A SLING! BUT Y'KNOW SOMETHIN'?? I CAN'T HEAR A WORD YUH SAY!

BEFORE MONTANA KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, I DREW ONE OF MY BUNTLINES WITH MY LEFT HAND, IN A QUICK CROSS-DRAW— AND FIRED!

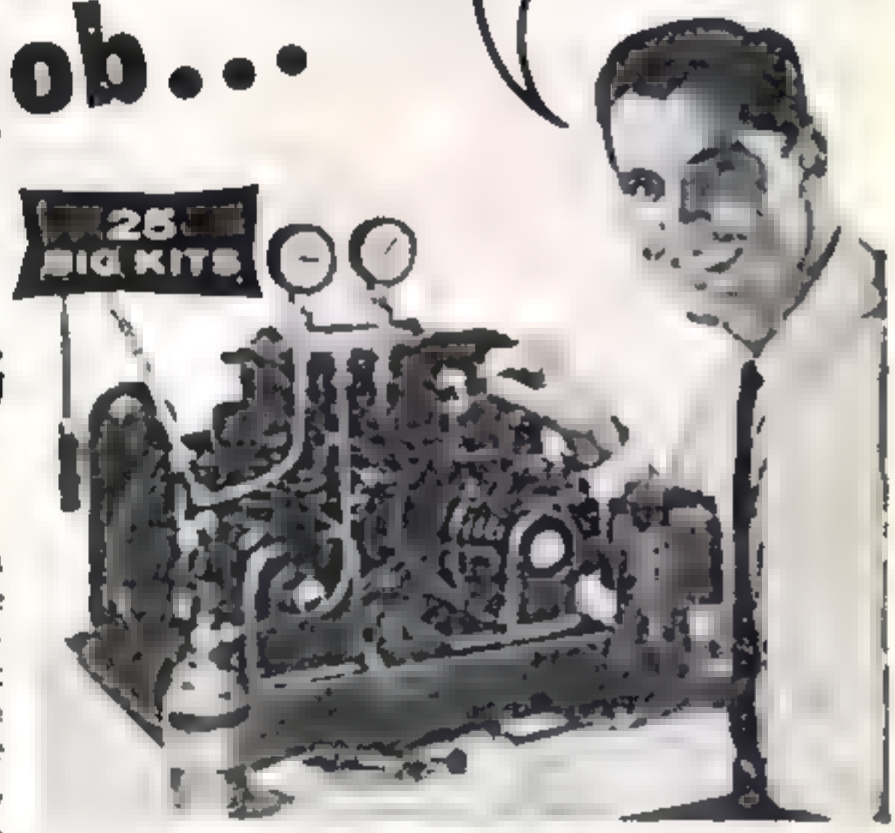
MAYBE THIS'LL HELP YOUR HEARIN'!

BLAM!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

You'll soon be happy in a great new job...

...earning BIG money...



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City _____ Zone _____ State _____

BUT IT WAS ONE TIME I WAS CAUGHT OFF GUARD! FOR, FROM ONE SIDE, A **SECOND** SHOT RANG OUT...

CRACK

NICE SHOOTIN', BEN!

WE GOT EARP FOR **SURE** NOW! HE CAN'T DO NOTHIN' WITH NO GUNS AND ONE ARM USELESS!

I'LL JUST TAKE HIS **OTHER** BUNTLINE TO MAKE SURE!

TOSS DOWN THEM GUNS, **ALL OF YUH!** NO ONE HAWG-TIES THE LAW IN **THIS** TOWN!

GRIZZLY! **BEHIND YUH!**

MY WARNING WAS TOO LATE— BEFORE GRIZZLY COULD TURN...

THUD

GRIZZLY'S FIGHTING HEART WAS AS BIG AS HIS MASSIVE, RUGGED FRAME! EVEN THE COWARDLY BLOW FROM BEHIND COULDN'T STOP HIM— BUT IT WEAKENED HIM ENOUGH SO THAT HE WAS FINALLY FELLED BY A MAN HE COULD NORMALLY HAVE BEATEN WITH ONE HAND TIED BEHIND HIM.

YUH MANGY BUSHWHACKIN' VARMINT! I'LL— **UGH!**

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO **STOP** YUH, LAWMAN???

WHAP!

THEY CARRIED GRIZZLY TO THE JAIL AND LOCKED HIM IN A CELL ... AND THEN, MONTANA MIKE TURNED TO *ME* ...

EARP, I'M TOO SOFT-HEARTED TO SHOOT YUH WHILE YORE HELPLESS, SO I'M GONNA RIDE OUT OF TOWN WITH YUH, AND FINISH YUH OFF *ANOTHER* WAY!

TWO OF YOU BOYS RIDE *WITH* ME — AND THE OTHER TWO STAY HERE IN DODGE AND START *TAKIN' OVER!*

SURE! NO ONE CAN STAND UP TO US WHEN *WE* GOT THE ONLY GUNS IN TOWN!

I KNOW A HIGH CLIFF JUST DOWN THE ROAD A' PIECE, EARP, AND IF YOU AND YOUR HOSS WUZ TO RIDE CLEAN OVER THE EDGE, I RECKON THEY'D NEED A NEW MARSHAL IN DODGE!

WHY DON'T YUH JUST SHOOT ME NOW AND BE *DONE* WITH IT, MONTANA?

I'M *SURPRISED* AT YUH, LAWMAN! YUH TALK LIKE I'M TRYIN' TO DO YUH HARM! I ONLY WANNA SEE IF YUH CAN *JUMP* AS GOOD AS YUH SHOOT! NOW *MOVE!*

IF I HAD TO BE BEATEN BY AN OWLHOOT, I COULD AT LEAST GO DOWN FIGHTING! SO, WITHOUT A SECOND'S WARNING, I HURLED MYSELF FROM MY HORSE — HEARING MONTANA'S FIRST SURPRISED SHOT GO WHISTLING OVER MY HEAD!

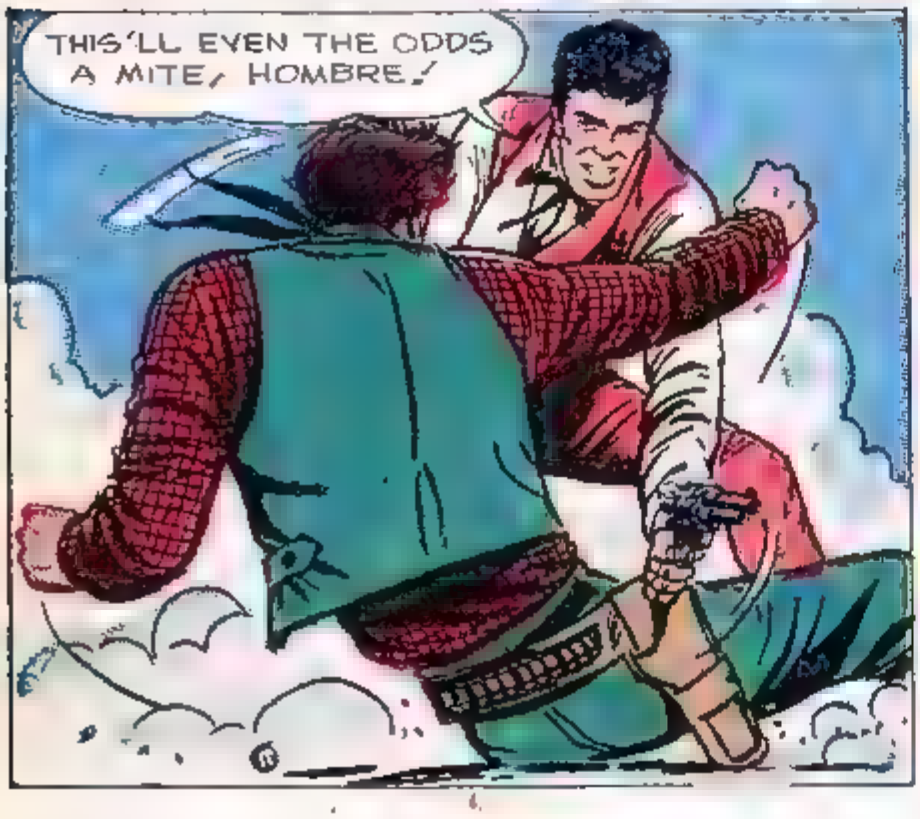
CRACK!

CONSARN YUH!

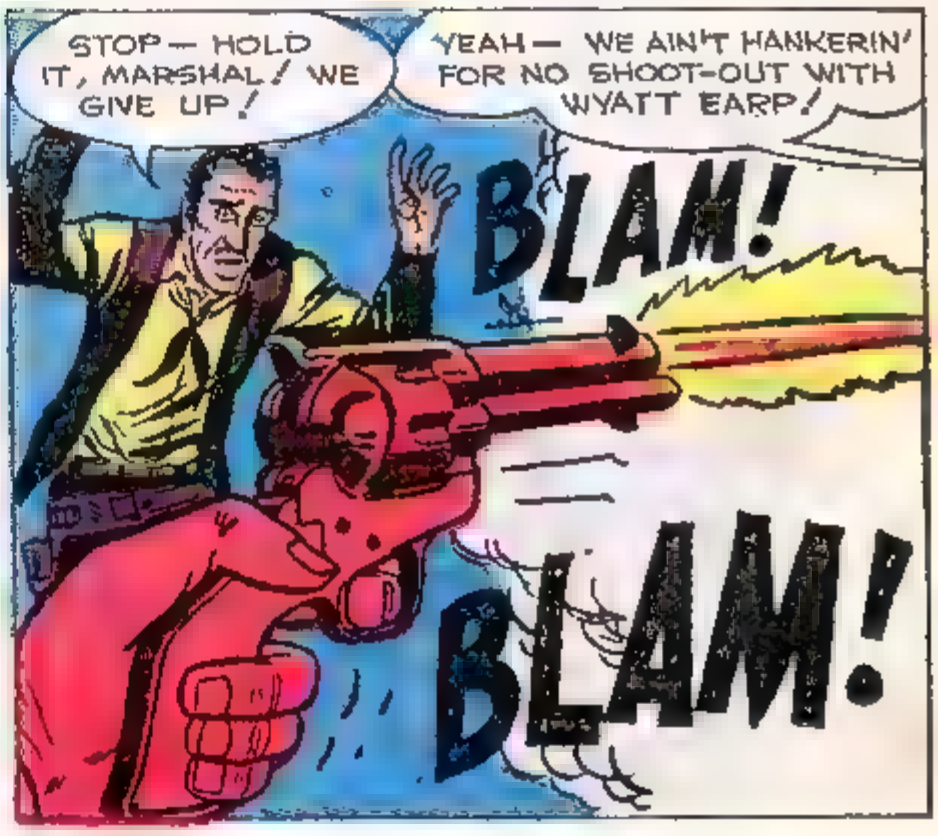
BEFORE ANYONE KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, I REACHED UP WITH MY GOOD ARM, AND PULLED MONTANA'S BOOT, MAKING HIM TOPPLE TO THE GROUND BESIDE ME!

I'LL SHOOT YUH MYSELF FOR THIS! I'LL — OHHH!

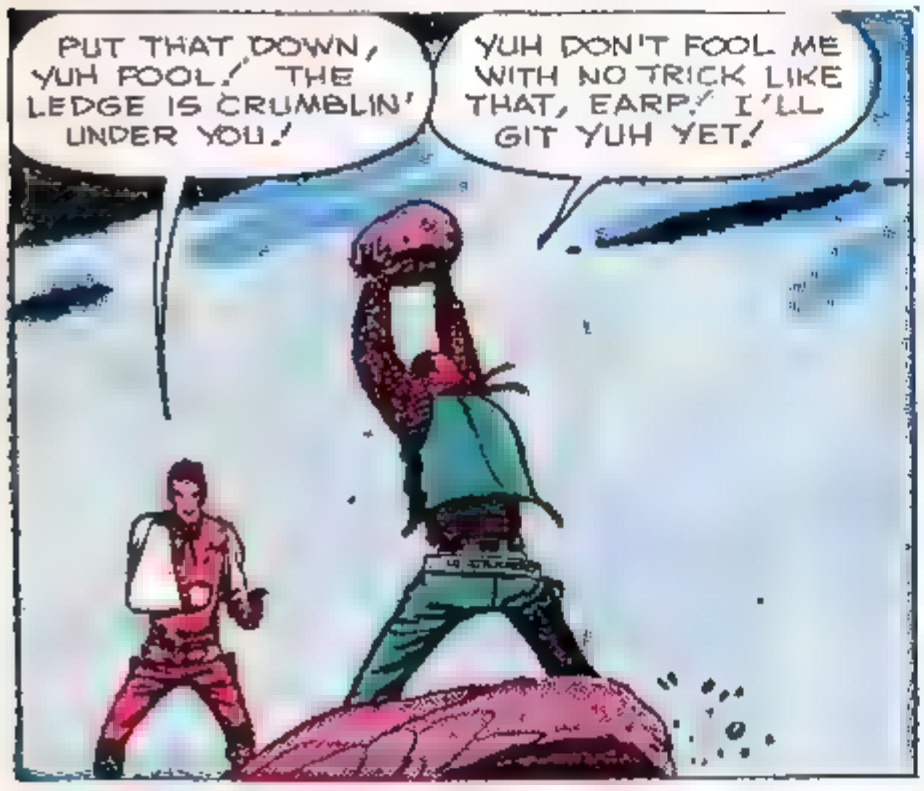
MOVING AS THOUGH IT HAD A MIND OF ITS OWN, MY GOOD HAND DARTED TO MONTANA'S HOLSTER AND SEZED HIS GUN!



WITH TWO QUICK SHOTS, I DISARMED HIS TWO ASTONISHED CRONIES!

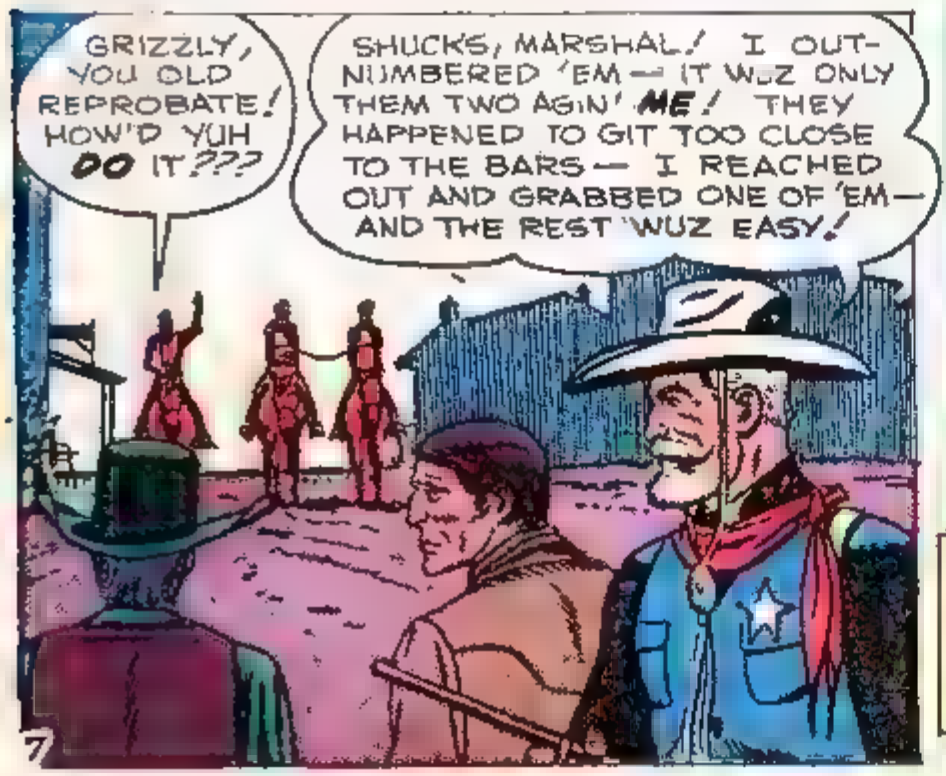


TURNING BACK TO MONTANA, I SAW HIM WITH A HUGE BOULDER IN HIS HAND— I COULD GUESS WHAT HE HAD BEEN ABOUT TO DO!



UNFORTUNATELY— FOR MONTANA— I *HADN'T* BEEN FOOLING! AND HIS CAREER OF OUTLAWRY CAME TO AN IRONIC END!

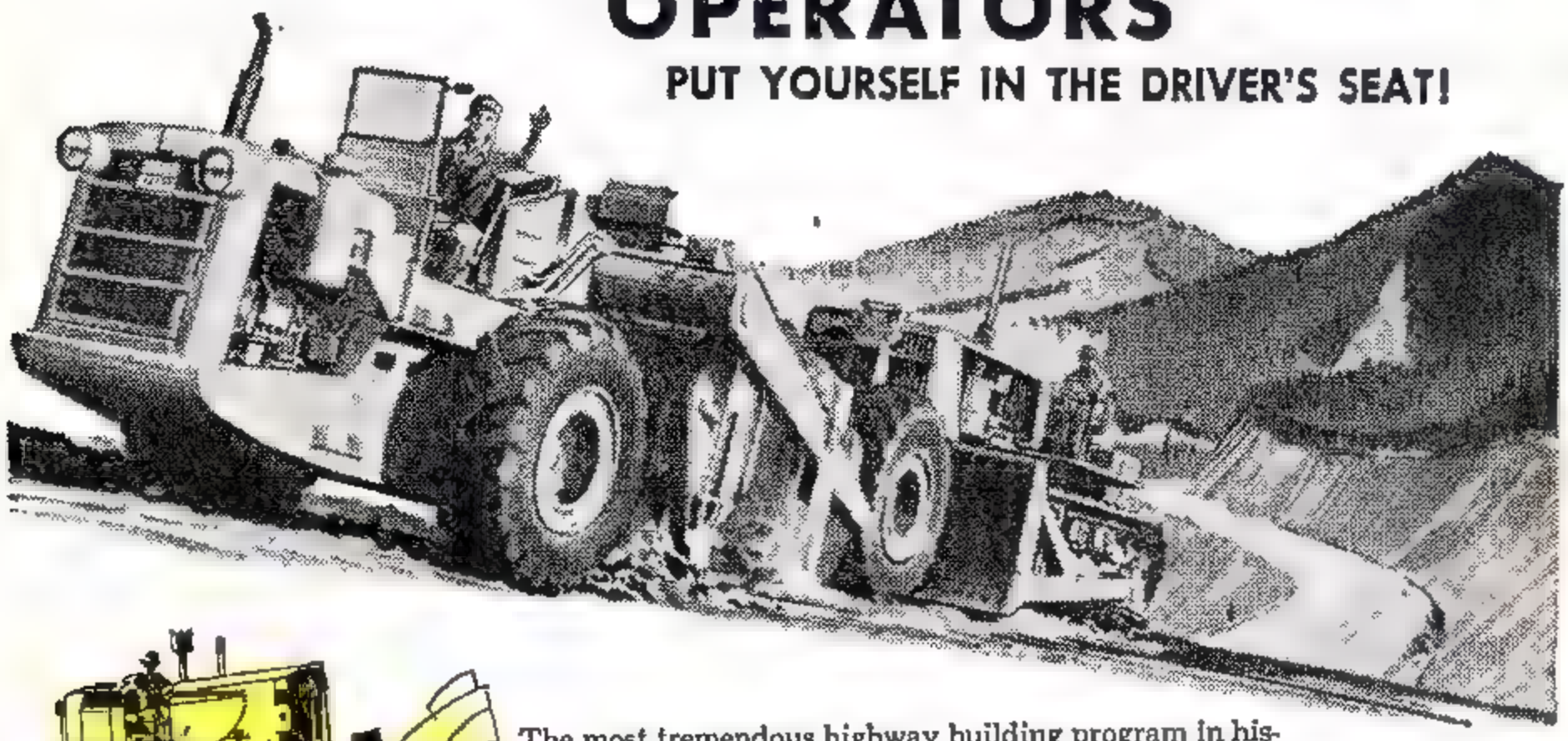
BUT I GOT THE BIGGEST SURPRISE OF ALL WHEN I REACHED DODGE... FOR I HAD BEEN EXPECTING TO HAVE ANOTHER GUNFIGHT WITH THE TWO HOMBRES MONTANA HAD LEFT BEHIND! INSTEAD...

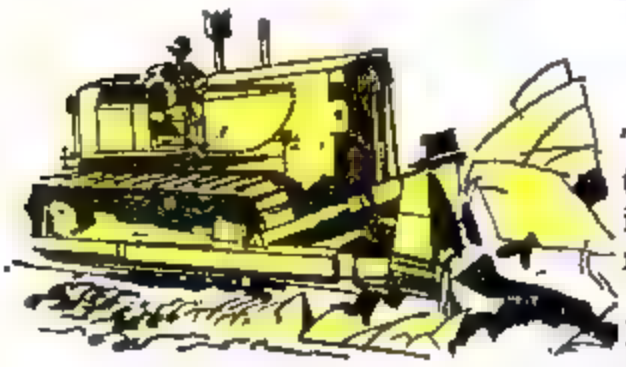

GRIZZLY, YOU OLD REPROBATE! HOW'D YUH *DO* IT???
SHUCKS, MARSHAL! I OUT-NUMBERED 'EM— IT WUZ ONLY THEM TWO AGIN' *ME*! THEY HAPPENED TO GIT TOO CLOSE TO THE BARS— I REACHED OUT AND GRABBED ONE OF 'EM— AND THE REST 'WUZ EASY!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, WHEN I SAW DOC AGAIN, I DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO TELL 'IM WHAT HAD HAPPENED! POOR DOC— HE WORRIES SO!

Train NOW as HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

PUT YOURSELF IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT!





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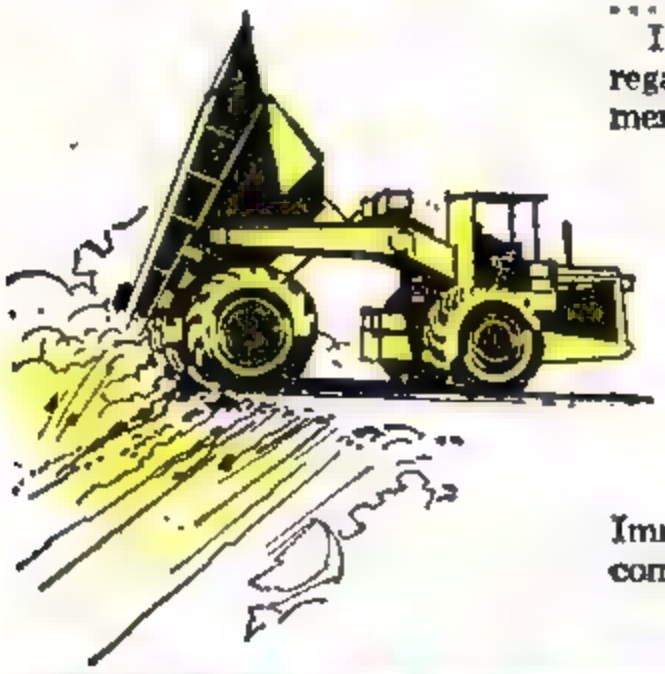

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- Rollers
- Bulldozers
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- Blueprint Reading
- Operating Controls
- Equipment Operation
- Field Maintenance
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Phone_____ Age_____

Education_____ Hours Worked_____

FINAL JUDGEMENT!

THIS IS THE HARD-BITTEN SAGA OF NATHAN HARPER, BETTER KNOWN AS **MERCILESS** HARPER, THE TOUGHEST JUDGE IN THE WEST!

THERE'S OL' MERCILESS HARPER, A'GOIN' TO COURT!
I'D HATE TO BE THE HOMBRE WHO COMES UP AGIN **HIM** TODAY!
THAT MAN HAS A HEART OF STONE AND BLOOD LIKE ICE-WATER!
THEY **HATE** ME... **ALL** OF THEM! BUT I DON'T CARE! I **KNOW** THAT I DO THE BEST I CAN, AND MY CONSCIENCE IS **CLEAR!**
Stan Lee + Doug Wildey

YUH GOTTA ADMIT **ONE** THING...THERE'S BEEN A HEAP LESS CRIME AROUND HERE SINCE OL' MERCILESS HAS BEEN JUDGE HERE!

COURT

MEBBE... BUT HE **STILL** DON'T HARDLY SEEM HUMAN TO ME!

ORDER IN THE COURT! EVERYBODY RISE! HIS HONOR, JUDGE HARPER!

BE SEATED! BAILIFF, WHAT'S THE FIRST CASE?

THIS HERE IS CLEM PLUNKETT, JUDGE! HE WUZ CAUGHT RUSTLIN' SOME OF DAN JEREMY'S STEERS!

HOW DO YOU PLEAD, PLUNKETT? GUILTY, OR NOT GUILTY?

SHUCKS, JUDGE, I RECKON I'M GUILTY, BUT I DIDN'T MEAN NO **HARM**...

I AIN'T NO **REAL** OWLHOOT! I ONLY TOOK THEM TWO STEERS ON A **DARE**! THAT'S ALL!

STAND UP, PLUNKETT, WHILE I PRONOUNCE SENTENCE...

CLEM PLUNKETT, I SENTENCE YOU TO ONE YEAR IN PRISON FOR CATTLE RUSTLING! NEXT CASE!

A WHOLE YEAR!

JUDGE, YUH CAN'T **DO** IT! I ONLY TOOK **TWO HEAD!** JEREMY HAS **HUNDREDS** OF HEAD! HE'LL NEVER MISS 'EM! YUH CAN'T SEND ME UP FER A LITTLE CRIME LIKE THAT!

COURT H

SILENCE!

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A LITTLE CRIME! ANY MAN WHO BREAKS THE **LAW IS A CRIMINAL!**

IF YOU GET AWAY WITH STEALING SOMETHING **SMALL** TODAY, YOU'LL TRY TO STEAL SOMETHING **BIG** TOMORROW! NOW TAKE 'IM AWAY!

SEE? HE'S GOT NO FEELINGS AT **ALL!** NO PITY!

COME TO THINK OF IT THOUGH... WHAT HE JUST **SAID** MADE A HEAP OF **SENSE** TO ME!

BAH! HE'S JUST A STONE-HEARTED HOMBRE, THAT'S ALL!

BRING THE NEXT PRISONER BEFORE ME!

3.

THIS IS THE UTAH KID, JUDGE! HE WUZ CAUGHT ROBBIN' THE STAGE AND BEATIN' UP THE DRIVER!

YUH'D NEVER HAVE CAUGHT ME IF MUH GUN HADN'T JAMMED!

HOW DO YOU PLEAD, SON?

I'M GUILTY! SO LET'S GIT IT OVER WITH! I DON'T LIKE THE SMELL OF THIS PLACE!

THIS ISN'T THE **FIRST** TIME YOU'VE BEEN IN TROUBLE! LAST MONTH YOU RECEIVED A SUSPENDED SENTENCE IN LAREDO, AND A YEAR AGO YOU WERE PUT ON PROBATION!

H-HOW DO **YOU** KNOW THAT?

IT'S MY **JOB** TO KNOW THINGS! AND I KNOW THAT THE COURTS HAVE BEEN TOO **EASY** ON YOU!

SO **WHAT?**

SO YUH NEED TO BE TAUGHT A REAL **LESSON!** I SENTENCE YOU TO THREE YEARS AT THE COUNTY PRISON... AT HARD LABOR!

NO! NOT **THREE YEARS!** NO!... YUH CAN'T...

I DIDN'T SHOOT NO ONE! I ONLY TRIED TO ROB THE STAGE, AND TO DEFEND MYSELF AGAINST THE DRIVER! NOBODY GOT HURT!

NOBODY GOT HURT, EH? THAT WASN'T **YOUR** FAULT! IF YOUR GUN HADN'T JAMMED, SOMEONE MIGHT'VE BEEN **KILLED!** THINK OVER HOW **LUCKY** YOU ARE! IF FATE HADN'T INTERVENED, I MIGHT BE SENTENCING YOU TO THE **GALLOWS!**

IT'S A STIFF SENTENCE, BUT IT'S THE **ONLY** CHANCE OF STRAIGHTENING A MAN OUT! YOU **MUST** LEARN THAT YOU'VE GOT TO **PAY** FOR WRONG-DOING!

AND NOW... COURT IS ADJOURNED!

I'LL BET MERCILESS IS SORRY HE COULDN'T SENTENCE THAT KID TO **HANG!**

YEAH! HE MUST REALLY **ENJOY** HIMSELF UP ON THAT BENCH!

YORE WRONG, GENTS! THE JUDGE **DOESN'T** ENJOY HIMSELF! HE DIDN'T ENJOY SENTENCING THAT BOY! AND I OUGHTTA KNOW!

OH YEAH-- WHAT MAKES **YOU** SO SURE, SHERIFF?

BECAUSE I HAPPEN TO KNOW THE UTAH KID'S REAL NAME! IT'S **HARPER!** HE HAPPENS TO BE THE JUDGE'S... **SON!**

THE NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO SPARE THOSE OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED WHO ARE STILL ALIVE, BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT HAPPENED! ALTHOUGH HE WAS CALLED "*MERCILESS*," THAT OBSCURE, UNAPPRECIATED FRONTIER JUDGE DID AS MUCH TO BRING LAW AND ORDER TO THE WEST AS ANY MAN IN THE TERRITORY!

The End

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evidence?" A rancher asked.

"A copy of the Gold Town Miner, which would state Woodrum's ownership as its publisher," Bradley said. "A search has been made, but no copy has appeared. Perhaps some copies were left in the buildings, or in the original Miner office, but, as you know, the old town no longer exists." He glanced at Biff Tallant. "Mr. Tallant, all we can do now is to ask you to reduce the prices you're asking for the land."

Tallant rose.

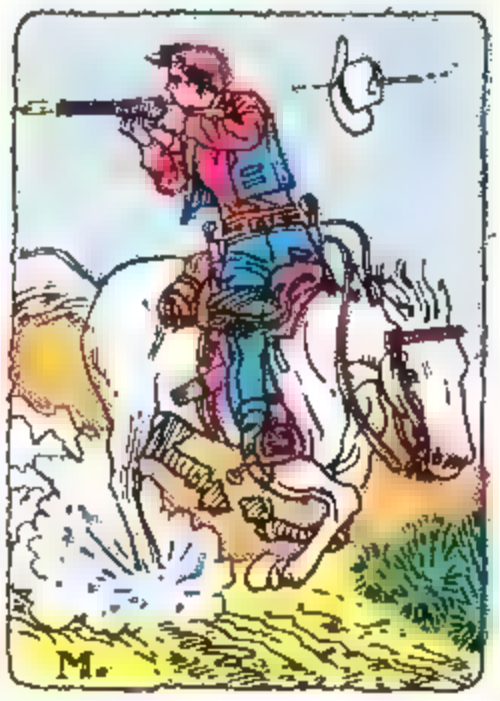
"The best I can do is give you all time to pay," he said firmly. "But the prices stand. Technically, you're all trespassing on land belonging to me. I think I'm being fair and legal." And he left the hall.

Jim Bradley surveyed the silent ranchers before him.

"There's little more to be said," he sighed. "Our only hope is in obtaining a copy of the old Gold Town Miner, here or elsewhere. But where it might be found I don't know. Anyway, we can look. We'll meet here, as usual, next Friday, to report on action."

The ranchers poured out of the hall and wended their various ways home. Bradley, lingering, was downcast. He mounted his horse and rode home slowly to his own little ranch house and spread toward the valley head. The meeting had been held in the afternoon to enable the ranchers and their families to get home while it was still light. Now, as the rays of the setting sun touched the edge of the western hills, Bradley rode out onto the north road. It was only a small valley, he thought to himself, only about thirty miles long from end to end. But things could be easily hidden in such small confines, too. Bradley tried to figure out a place where a copy of the old paper might have survived. For awhile, he could think of nothing. Then a gleam of light lit suddenly in his eyes. He cast a sharp glance around the horizon as he rode northward. He saw nothing he had not seen before, but when he arrived home there was, at least, the spark of hope in his heart.

In the next two days, Bradley let his ranch work languish,



while he rode out to explore the valley, and particularly, its borders. On the evening of the second day, he found what he was looking for, but it was not until the morning of the third that he reached it . . . and he'd spent a good part of the night doing that.

On Friday afternoon, the mayor opened the town meeting with a glint in his eye. The valley folk arrived, knowing that the following Monday was the last day of grace Biff Tallant would allow them. Tallant was present. There was silence as Bradley opened the meeting. Everyone knew there was only one important item on the agenda.

"I declare the town meeting open," Bradley said. "And I call upon anyone who may have found a copy of the Gold Town Miner."

Not a hand was raised. Then Bradley opened a canvas oats bag he'd appropriated from his own cayuse for the purpose, and took a yellowed newspaper from it. A gasp ran through the audience.

"I found a copy of the Gold Town Miner," Jim Bradley said, smiling.

"Jim, where?" A tall, middle-aged rancher asked, rising to his feet in amazement.

"Well," Bradley continued, "I figured one or more of the miners might have lived out in the hills in an old shack, hidden against wind. He'd abandon it, of course, later, but he also might have left a copy of the paper there." He paused. "I found no such shack," he continued. "But I did find the hollow stone cornerstone of the old town hall . . . half a mile from here. It was buried under ashes . . . but it was intact, and inside among other things, was the first copy of the Gold Town Miner, listing Grant Woodrum as editor and publisher. I reckon this proves Woodrum was real enough. And, since he has no heirs, the land automatically reverts to the state!"

He watched Biff Tallant rise silently, under the stares of many eyes, shrug, and then leave the room. Then the room shook to the thunder of applause for the mayor of Gold Town as Bradley said, "That also means nobody has to pay a cent for any of his already-occupied land!"

THE END K-176

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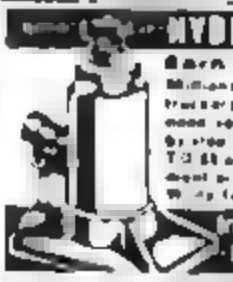

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THE FASTEST GUN!

ONE SIDE! IT'S THE LIGHTNING KID!

PALACE

SALOON

LEMME OUTTA HERE!

HE'S THE FASTEST GUN IN THE WEST!

THERE WAS ONE QUESTION ON EVERYONE'S LIPS! AND THAT QUESTION WAS: COULD **ANY** MAN OUTDRAW THE LIGHTNING KID???

Stan Lee

I GOTTA SEE THE BOSS --PRONTO!

BOSS, OPEN UP! IT'S ME, RUSTY! **LET ME IN!**

WHAT IS IT, HOMBRE?

BOSS! I GOT NEWS! **BIG NEWS!**

WE GOTTA CLEAR OUTTA TOWN RIGHT AWAY!

CLEAR OUTTA TOWN? YORE **LOCO!**

BUT I JUST HEARD TELL... **THE LIGHTNIN' KID** IS COMIN'!

THE LIGHTNIN' KID!!

THE LIGHTNIN' KID! I DON'T WANNA MESS WITH **THAT** HOMBRE! I'M MAKIN' **TRACKS!**

YELLA CHICKEN-LIVERED COWARDS! ARE YUH **ALL** AFEARED OF ONE HOMBRE?

DURN TOOTIN' WE ARE... WHEN IT'S THE LIGHTNIN' KID!

I AIN'T LEAVIN' TOWN FER **NO** ONE! NOT EVEN **THE KID!**

BUT, BOSS, EVER SINCE THE GOVERNOR **DEPUTIZED** HIM, HE'S BEEN SUDDEN DEATH ON OWLHOOTS!

LOOK! EVEN THOUGH TWO OF THEM YELLA CRITTERS LEFT, THERE'S STILL **FIVE** OF US AND ONLY **ONE** OF HIM! HE WON'T HAVE A **CHANCE!**

RECKON YORE RIGHT, BOSS!

WE'LL GIT A PLAN! RUSTY, WHEN **IS** THAT HOMBRE ARRIVIN' IN TOWN?

ON THE THREE O'CLOCK STAGE, BOSS!

THAT GIVES US A HALF HOUR! WHAT DOES HE **LOOK** LIKE?

DUNNO, BOSS! NO ONE HEREABOUTS EVER SEEN 'IM! BUT I RECKON WE'LL KNOW 'IM BY THE WAY HE WEARS HIS GUNS!

LET'S FIND A SPOT TO WAIT FOR THE STAGE! WE'LL FIGGER OUT WHAT TO DO WHEN WE **SEE** 'IM!

TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

HERE IT COMES...

I'LL HELP YOU OFF, DEAR!

THANK YOU, JOHN!

HOPE YOU AND YOUR WIFE ENJOY YOUR STAY IN TOWN, MISTER!

I RECKON WE'LL ENJOY IT RIGHT ENOUGH!

WELL, I RECKON WE ALL KNOW WHO THE LIGHTNIN' KID **IS**!! HE'S THE ONLY HOMBRE WHO GOT OFF THE STAGE!

WHAT'LL WE DO **NOW**, BOSS?

IT'LL BE A **CINCH**! WE'LL JUST HAVE A LITTLE TALK WITH HIS **WIFE**! HE WON'T DARE FIGHT US WHILE **SHE'S** WITH US! THEN WE'LL GET THE DROP ON 'IM!

I RECKON IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A LIGHTNIN' KID TO OUT-SMART **YOU**, BOSS!

I'LL MEET YOU AT THE HOTEL LATER, DEAR! I WANT TO GET MYSELF A HOSS NOW!

DON'T BE LONG, DARLING!

NOW'S OUR CHANCE!

LADY, WE WANNA PALAVER WITH YOU FOR A SPELL!

WE KNOW YORE HUSBAND IS A'LOOKIN' FOR US!

--AND WE'RE GONNA HELP 'IM **FIND** US RIGHT NOW!

AND YORE COMIN' **WITH** US TO MAKE SURE HE ACTS REAL PEACEFUL!

YOU... YOU MUST BE THE **LATHRUP GANG!**

RIGHT AS RAIN, LADY... AND WE'RE GONNA TEACH YOUR HUSBAND THAT IT AIN'T HEALTHY TO COME GUNNIN' FER US!

NOW GIT MOVIN'!

I'LL DO JUST **THAT!**

WHERE'D THAT **GUN** COME FROM?

I DIDN'T EVEN SEE HER MOVE!

FIRST, LET'S GET RID OF YOUR HARD-WARE, THEN WE CAN ALL HAVE A NICE PLEASANT TALK!

GIT HER!!

IF YOU DON'T DROP THOSE GUNS PRONTO, I WON'T BE SO MERCIFUL WITH MY NEXT SHOTS!

WHAT HAPPENED, DARLING?

WE WON'T **HAVE** TO STAY IN TOWN LONG AFTER ALL! I FOUND THE OWLHOOTS WE WERE LOOKING FOR! THEY KINDLY INTRODUCED THEM-SELVES! NOW WE CAN TAKE THEM BACK TO THE COUNTY SEAT WITH US!

WHO...? HOW... IT... IT AIN'T POSSIBLE!

YOU MADE ONE MIGHTY BIG MISTAKE, HOMBRE!

... YOU SHOULD HAVE FOUND OUT WHETHER THE LIGHTNING KID WAS A **MAN** OR A **WOMAN!!**

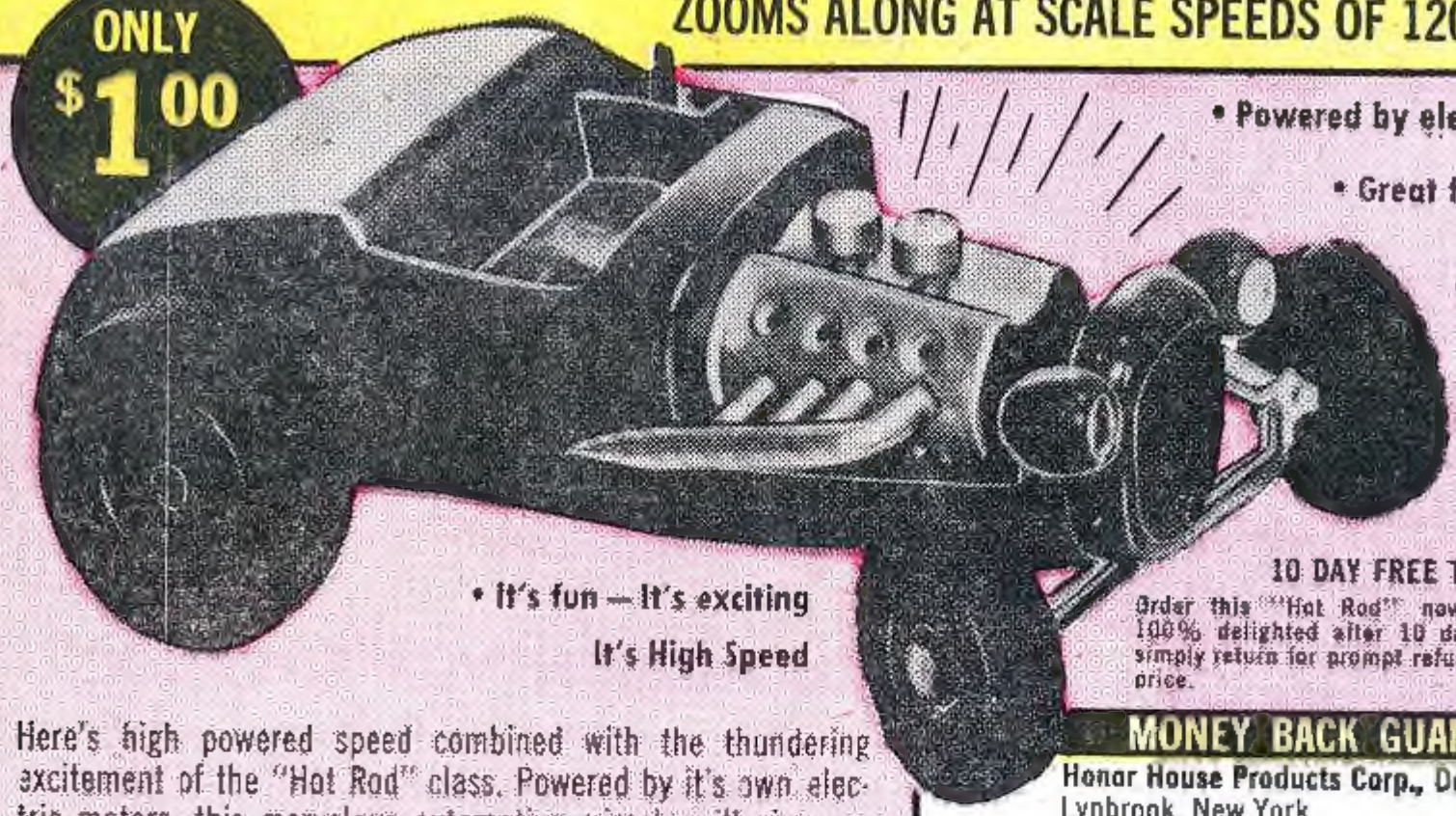
KID

THE END

BUILD YOUR OWN HOT ROD

ZOOMS ALONG AT SCALE SPEEDS OF 120 M.P.H.

ONLY $1.00



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- It's fun — It's exciting
- It's High Speed

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10 DAY FREE TRIAL

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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☐ I enclosed $1 plus 25c shipping charges. Same Money Back Guarantee

☐ Send COD, I will pay postman on delivery plus shipping charges & COD.

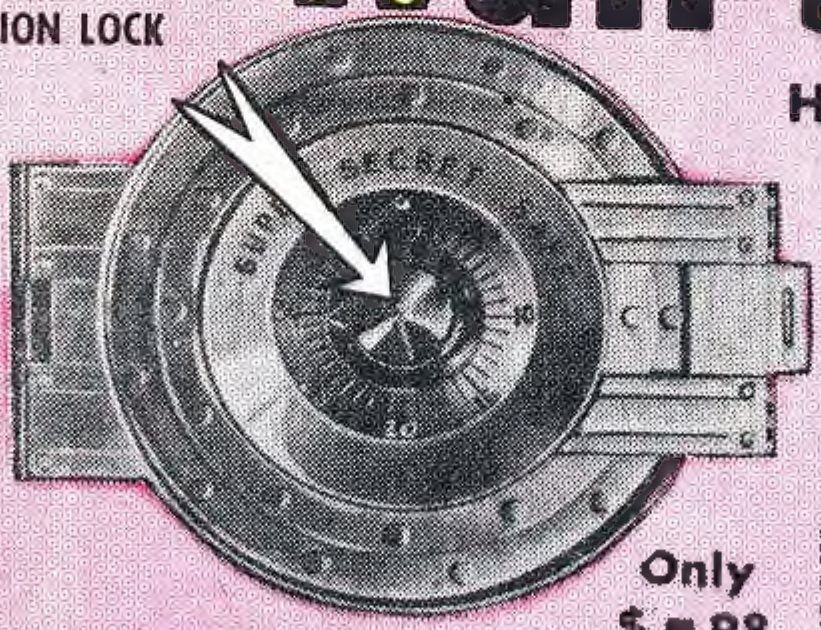
Name.....

Address.....

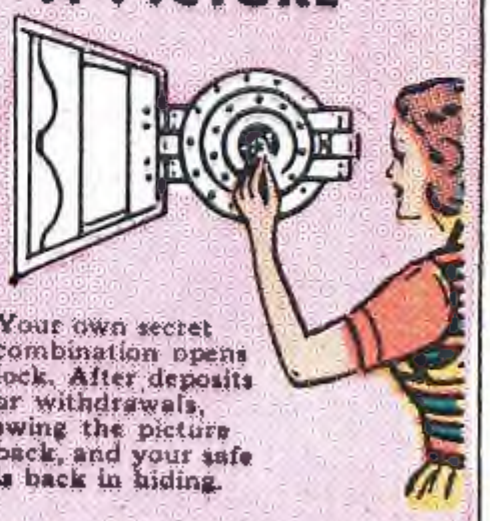
AMAZING SUPER-SECRET Wall Safe

WITH GENUINE COMBINATION LOCK

- Perfect Hiding Place For Your Money, Valuables, Secret Documents.
- Looks Like Ordinary Picture—But Behind Is The Safe. It's A Picture—It's A Safe.

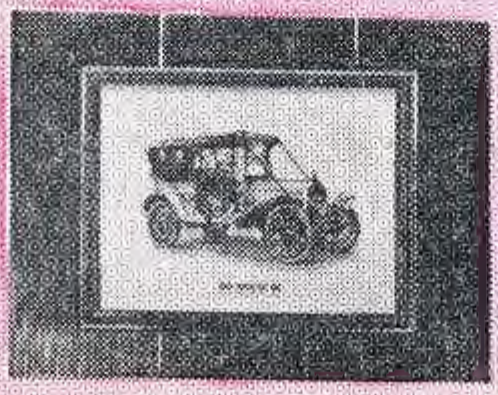


HIDDEN BEHIND A PICTURE



Your own secret combination opens lock. After deposits or withdrawals, swing the picture back, and your safe is back in hiding.

Only $1.98



This full color picture swings open to reveal concealed safe.

Yes, this wonderful Safe is 7" in diameter, and has its own Secret combination that YOU ALONE KNOW. Hidden behind an 8½" x 10¼" frame containing an attractive picture, this safe is your own private stronghold, yet to anyone else in the room, it looks just like an ordinary picture. Yes, you can deposit money, jewelry, secret documents, precious possessions and it's completely hidden. After you deposit or withdraw from the vault-like interior, just close the door, spin the dial, swing the picture back into place, and PRESTO! your Wall Safe is back in hiding. Why, all the other kids will give you their valuables to hide for them. You can even show your friends your safe and still keep the secret, because YOU ALONE KNOW THE COMBINATION that opens it. You can attach the safe to the wall in seconds with screws provided and it will not harm or deface the wall.

10 DAY FREE TRIAL

Don't delay. Order Now. If you are not 100% thrilled and delighted with the Wall Safe, simply return for prompt refund of full purchase price. Only $1.98 plus 45¢ shipping charge.

Money Back Guarantee

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Rush my Super Secret Concealed Wall Safe with combination Lock and picture at once. If I am not 100% delighted, I may return after 10 DAY FREE TRIAL for prompt Refund of purchase price.

☐ I enclose $1.98 plus 45¢ shipping charges.
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery and C.O.D. and shipping.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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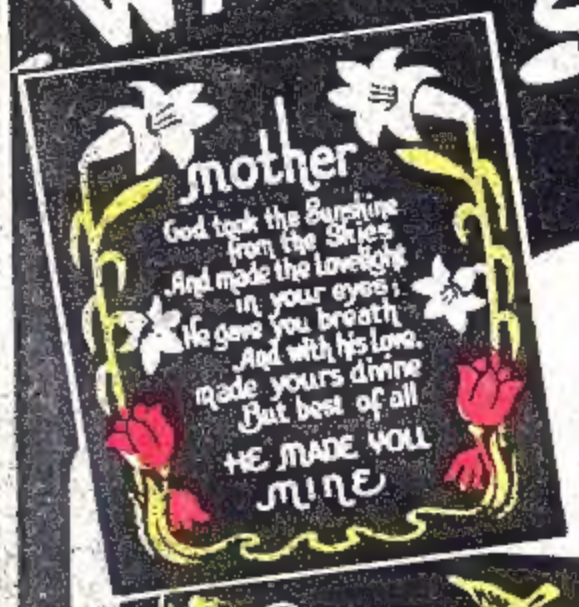
DO YOU WANT SPENDING MONEY?

Sell these popular Patriotic and Religious Mottoes



SEND US NO MONEY IN ADVANCE

Just write and ask us to send you 40 of these beautiful glittering mottoes which the public likes so well. Sell them easily and quickly to your friends and neighbors for only 35¢ each. At the end of 14 days send back, if you wish, all mottoes you have not sold, and send us only 25¢ for each you have sold. You keep all the rest of the money.

IF YOU SELL 25, YOU KEEP $2.50

IF YOU SELL 30, YOU KEEP $3.00

IF YOU SELL ALL 40 YOU KEEP $4.00

REMEMBER: No money is needed in advance. You take no risks. You can return all the mottoes you do not sell. You do not pay shipping costs or split your commission. You keep all the profit on each sale.

WRITE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS TO ⇨

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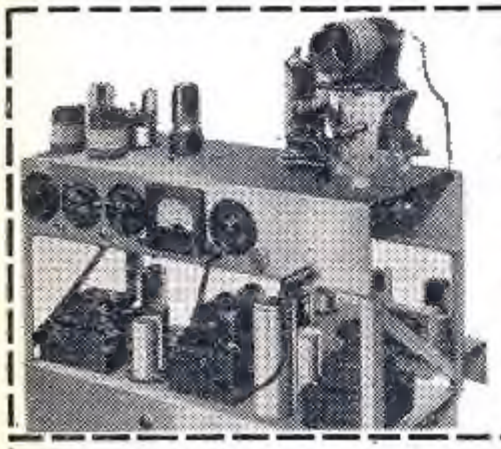
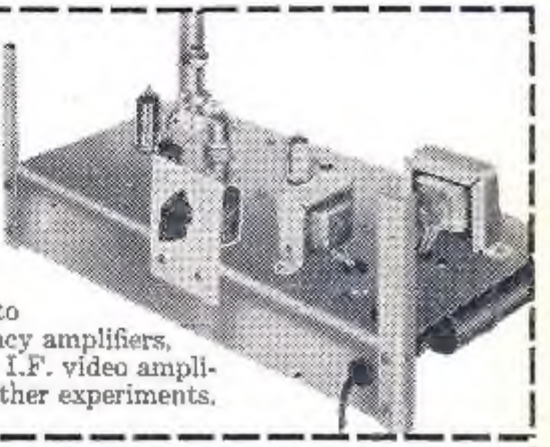
Dept. RF P. O. Box 1004
Nashville , Tennessee



YOU BUILD Broadcasting Transmitter

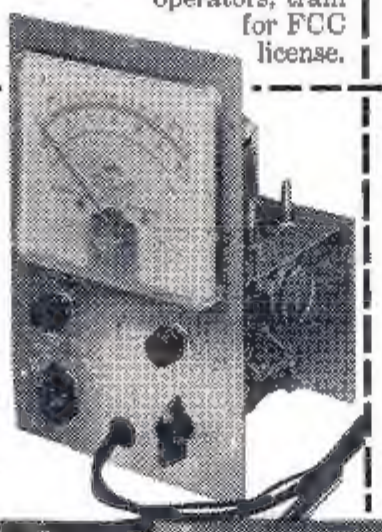
As part of N.R.I. Communications Course you build this low power Transmitter; use it to learn methods required of commercial broadcasting operators, train for FCC license.

YOU BUILD Signal Generator



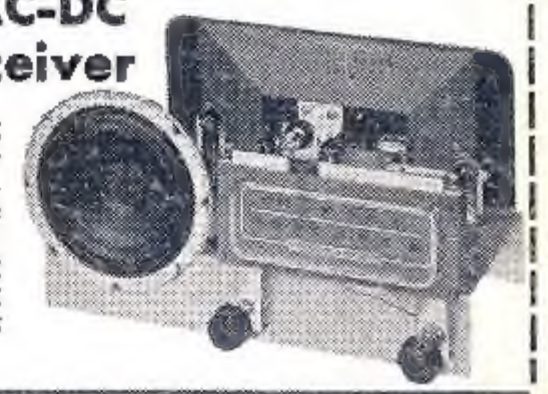
N.R.I. sends kits of parts to build this Signal Generator. You get practical experience, conduct tests to compensate Radio frequency amplifiers, practice aligning a typical I.F. video amplifier in TV circuit, many other experiments.

YOU BUILD Vacuum Tube Voltmeter



Use it to get practical experience, earn extra cash fixing neighbors' sets in spare time, gain knowledge to help you work in Radio, Television, Color TV. With N.R.I. training you work on circuits common to both Radio and TV. Equipment you build "brings to life" things you learn in N.R.I.'s easy-to-understand lessons. 64 page Catalog FREE, shows all equipment you get.

YOU BUILD AC-DC Superhet Receiver



N.R.I. servicing training supplies all parts, everything is yours to keep. Nothing takes the place of practical experience. You get actual servicing experience by practicing with this modern receiver; you learn-by-doing.

Learn RADIO TELEVISION by Practicing at Home

WHAT GRADUATES DO AND SAY

Chief Engineer

"I am Chief Engineer of Station KGCU in Mandan, N. D. I also have my own spare time business servicing high frequency two-way communications systems." R. BARNETT, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Paid for Instruments

"I am doing very well in spare time TV and Radio. Sometimes have three TV jobs waiting and also fix car Radios for garages. I paid for instruments out of earnings." G. F. SEAMAN, New York, N. Y.

Has Own TV Business

"We have an appliance store with our Radio and TV servicing, and get TV repairs. During my Army service, NRI training helped get me a top rated job." W. M. WEIDNER, Fairfax, South Dakota.

NEED FOR TECHNICIANS INCREASING

Fast Growing Field Offers Good Pay, Bright Future

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Don't Be Half A Man!

Let Me SHOW How I Can Make You a REAL HE MAN from Head to Toe—in Just 15 Minutes a Day!

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- Always Tired?
- Nervous?
- Shy and Lacking in Confidence?
- Overweight and Short of Breath?
- Lacking in Vim and Vigor?
- Fat or Flabby?
- Slow at Sports?
- Do You Want to Gain Weight?
- Tired of being bullied?
- Ashamed of your Half-Man Build?

NOBODY would ever call an Atlas Champion "Half A Man." They wouldn't dare. And nobody has to settle for "Second Best" . . . be "pushed around" by huskier fellows . . . or go through life feeling HALF - ALIVE. CHARLES ATLAS, himself, tells you what you can do about it—and FAST—right on this page!

Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be?

NO MATTER how ashamed of your present physical condition you may be—how old or young you are—you have the DORMANT muscle power in your God-given body to be a real HE-MAN. Believe me, I know because I was once a 97-pound HALF-ALIVE weakling. People laughed at my build . . . I was ashamed to strip for sports . . . shy of girls . . . afraid of competition.

Then I discovered the secret that changed me into "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man." The secret I have shared with thousands of fellows to turn them into marvelous physical specimens — REAL HE-MEN from head to toe!

My Secret Builds Muscles FAST!

My Secret is *"Dynamic Tension."* It's the NATURAL easy method you can practice right in the privacy of your own room — JUST 15 MINUTES EACH DAY — while your scrawny chest and shoulder muscles swell so big they almost split your coat seams . . . you get sledge hammer fists, a battering ram punch . . . ridges of solid stomach muscle . . . mighty legs that never tire!

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Charles Atlas

Holder of the title "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man."

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Here Are Just a Few of the Men I've Turned into Atlas Champions!

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"That is what you have done for me—and in almost no time."
—C. W., W. Va.

Proud of His Build Now
Gained 20 pounds. "My whole upper trunk is now in proportion to the rest of my body. I'm really proud of my body, thanks to you." —P. V., Va.

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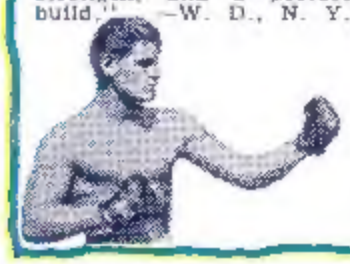
"I feel like a Hon. I can easily lift 185 pounds. You gave me new health, strength, and a perfect build." —W. D., N. Y.



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—W. G., New Jersey

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